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Roads Review:

As the House of Commons Transport Select Committee has noted, under this Government, road building projects have been beset by delay and overspend. It is economically and socially responsible to ensure that our transport network is in the best condition possible, yet up and down the country we are faced with poorly managed and decaying roads every day, with the number of potholes being fixed per year having almost halved since 2015.

As you may know, the Climate Change Committee has called for the Government to conduct a systematic review of current and future road-building projects in its recent report. It has also noted the importance of switching to lower-carbon modes of travel. I will be interested to read the Government's response to the report, which is due shortly.

The Transport Select Committee's recent report on strategic road investment noted that the Government's policy to phase out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030 was a central part of decarbonising the strategic road network. As constituents may be aware, since the report was published the Government has announced a delay to this policy, pushing the date back to 2035.

I am extremely concerned that this decision, along with the watering down of other climate commitments, will mean ordinary households paying billions of pounds more in fuel costs, damage investor confidence in the UK, and wreck the UK's reputation as a climate leader.

More widely, I believe we should be supporting local authorities to provide safe, accessible walking routes and cycling infrastructure, as well as a world-class green public transport network and a rolling programme of electrification. This includes turbocharging a just transition to cheaper electric vehicles, making them affordable and accessible, as well as accelerating the roll-out of charging points in areas currently being left behind.

I assure constituents that I am committed to rebuilding the infrastructure our communities depend on, while ensuring we have the capacity and regulatory framework to build infrastructure faster, cheaper and greener.

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